World Journal Tribune, New York, Friday, February 24, 1967

'Plot' Figure Died Of Ruptured Artery

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 24 (AP)—Coroner Nicholas Chetta said today a chemical analysis on the body of David W. Ferrie showed he died of natural causes.

"There is no indication whatsoever of suicide or murder," the Orleans parish coroner said. A ruptured artery in the brain was the cause of death, he said.

Ferrie, a pilot, was found dead in bed Wednesday. He was a central figure in district attorney Jim Garrison's current investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Garrison had termed Ferrie's death apparent suicide.

A chemical analysis of Ferrie's blood, urine and skin was negative for the presence of alcohol, drugs and poison, Chetta said.

Chetta disclosed he had been contacted by a physician who had treated Ferrie.

"This doctor told me he had treated Ferrie for high blood pressure and recently for a gastro-intestinal disturbance," Chetta said. "The doctor said he found Ferrie unduly disturbed and depressed and said Ferrie spoke about suicide.

"The doctor also said Ferrie was determined to sue Dist. Atty. Garrison for a large sum of money. I believe the figure was something like $500,000."

Ferrie had consistently denied ever knowing Lee Harvey Oswald—named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin.

Taylor Gets Award

Henry J. Taylor, World Journal Tribune columnist, was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedom Foundation for his column titled "The Meaning of Liberty."